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ABBY LEE JOINS THE CHAIN GANG

The 'Dance Moms' star has to do a year in the clinker. 22

Brave enough to try cemetery cider? 24

Diane Lane doesn't want to just play moms. 26-27

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YOU'RE FIRED!

James Comey's dismissal has been blamed on his alleged mishandling of the investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. 6

GETTY IMAGES

TRUMP FIRES FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY

1 President Donald Trump on Tuesday fired FBI Director James Comey in a shock development, saying Comey was no longer able to effectively lead the agency. "It is essential that we find new leadership for the FBI that restores public trust and confidence in its vital law enforcement mission," he said in a letter to Comey released by the White House. REUTERS

For more on Comey, see page 6

TUNNEL COLLAPSES AT NUCLEAR WASTE PLANT

2 A tunnel partly collapsed on Tuesday at a plutonium-handling facility at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state, but there was no indication workers or the public were exposed to radiation, federal officials said. Workers evacuated or took cover and turned off ventilation systems after damage was discovered in the wall of a transport tunnel about 170 miles east of Seattle, officials with the Department of Energy's Hanford Joint Information Center said. The damage was more serious than initially reported, and the take-cover order was expanded to cover the entire facility after response crews found a 400-square-foot section of the decommissioned rail tunnel had collapsed, center spokesman Destry Henderson said in a video posted on Facebook. REUTERS

GRAHAM CURIOUS ON TRUMP BUSINESS DEALS

3 U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said he wants to know more about President Donald Trump's business dealings in relation to Russia, but that congressional investigations may have to avoid the matter if they conflict with an FBI probe. Graham asked former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Monday whether he had concerns about

Russian ties to Trump's business interests. Clapper said he could not comment because the issue could be a subject of an ongoing investigation. CNN reported on Tuesday that Graham intended to look into Trump's business ties to see if any connections exist between Russia and the Trump campaign or the president's associates. REUTERS

SEEKING SHELTER

4 A Warao indigenous child seeks shelter from the rain wrapped in a blanket, under the Ayrton Senna Viaduct in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, on May 9, 2017. According to the Manaus city government, a population of around 400 Warao natives ran away from their country — Venezuela — because of the economical and political crisis, towards Manaus, where they have been living in awful conditions next to the Bus station and under the Ayrton Senna viduct. GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

BOMB THREAT CAUSES PANIC ON SAUDI AIRLINER

5 An apparently mentally unstable man caused panic among passengers on a airliner heading for Cairo from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia when he threatened to blow up the aircraft, airport sources said. The 61-year-old man, a retired textile worker from Egypt, was subdued by security staff on the plane, operated by Saudi airline Flynas, and arrested when it landed in the Egyptian capital, the sources said. The man told police he was not aware of what he had done, according to the sources. He was being questioned and was expected to be referred to a psychiatrist to determine his mental state. State-run newspaper Ahramgate said no weapons or explosives were found with him. Air security is a sensitive topic in Egypt. An Egyptair plane crashed in the Mediterranean last year, killing all 66 people on board. REUTERS

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EVAN MACY, PHILADELPHIA SPORTS EDITOR

Just how good is Trump on the links? The reports are mixed. We break down Trump's golf swing and several accounts of cheating to get a better idea of how much good those huge golf trip tabs are doing. Find out more at **metro.us/sports.**

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Lufti made us feel at home, and he said he finally feels accepted. LUC KORDAS

At Displaced Dinners, a meal and the tale of a refugee's struggles

Gay Syrian refugee wandered for years before finding a home in New York City.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA
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Syrian refugee Lufti Al-Kaer, who has taken refuge in the United States for about three months, still has the bright, hopeful face of a young man.

That's a bit of a surprise, considering Lufti, 31, was cast away by his family in Syria for being a gay man and was persecuted for years by authorities before winding up in New York.

Lufti, 31, shared his story as he cooked a meal for nine guests at a long table set out in Mazeish Grill for the Displaced Dinners series, twice-weekly dinners cooked by a refugee.

He talked openly with his hands, with an almost imperceptible undercurrent of the shyness of someone who has only recently tasted acceptance.

The devastation in Syria began six years ago as an uprising against President Bashar al-Assad but has become a civil war, leaving more than 300,000 people dead and leading an estimated 11 million Syrians to flee to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq in harsh conditions or risk death at sea while seeking salvation in Europe.

But in countries like Egypt and Iraq, homosexuality is a crime, and there is no place for Lufti.

Lufti spoke about being arrested twice — once for attending a party in Bahrain and once in Dubai for going on a date with an undercover agent.

"They are not allowed to do private parties in the Middle East, all the Gulf, for gays," he explained.

After the second arrest, Lufti was deported to Syria in 2012, just as the uprising began. Listening to bombs and seeing smoke rise from the impact zones, Lufti decided to move to Egypt.

In Cairo, Lufti made a vow — "no nightclub, no private party, no dates!" — but after his homosexual roommate was arrested, Lufti sought help from the United Nations.

Lufti endured more than a year of meetings, a 12-hour interview and multiple background checks. Refugees to other countries fly free-of-cost, but refugees coming to America have to pay back the cost of their plane ticket, Lufti said, as the main course of rice, meat, eggplant and cucumber yogurt sauce was served.

Lufti arrived in New York City with $70 "welcome cash" in his pocket and took a $92 taxi from the airport to a friend's apartment.

He wasn't linked with the resettlement services he had heard about from friends elsewhere in the country. Instead, Lufti said he had to apply for jobs, find housing and acquire assistance all on his own.

With help from the LGBT Center, he got a job at Zara SoHo, where he is paid $2 less per hour than employees with "New York experience," and he said he looks forward to taking English classes.

Over cashew-stuffed baklava, Lufti said he is terrified by how much freedom he has now, but he is looking forward to the Gay Pride parade.

His hope is that despite President Trump's anti-Muslim policies, the U.S. will provide sanctuary.

"I don't know why they stopped the refugees," Lufti said. "We really need to start a new life in another country."

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FBI Director James Comey terminated

Comey had been overseeing key FBI investigations.

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James Comey. GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump fired FBI Director James Comey on Tuesday, saying that Comey is incapable of leading the agency.

"Today, President Donald J. Trump informed FBI Director James Comey that he has been terminated and removed from office," a statement tweeted by White House spokesman Sean Spicer read. "President Trump acted based on the clear recommendations of both Deputy Attorney General Red Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions."

"The FBI is one of our nation's most cherished and respected institutions, and today will mark a new beginning for our crown jewel of law enforcement," Trump said in a statement.

The firing came as Comey was leading the investigation into whether Trump and his colleagues colluded with Russia to influence the outcome of the 2016 election. Trump has repeatedly called the investigation a "hoax."

Comey was one in a line of officials who were investigating Trump that Trump fired. Sally Yates, former acting attorney general, was dismissed after she refused to defend his travel ban on citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. Preet Bharara, the former U.S. attorney, refused to resign after Sessions asked for the resignations of 46 federal prosecutors.

"I did not resign," Bharara tweeted on March 11. "Moments ago I was fired."

Yates, Bharara and Comey were all part of investigations into Trump or his appointees.

"While I greatly appreciate you informing me, on three separate occasions, that I am not under investigation, I nevertheless concur with the judgment of the Department of Justice that you are not able to effectively lead the bureau," Trump said in a letter to Comey released by the White House.

Earlier on Tuesday, a report suggested that Comey had exaggerated the number of emails from Hillary Clinton's friend and aide Huma Abedin to her husband Anthony Weiner's laptop. Instead of "hundreds and thousands," it appears to have only been a handful of emails not marked classified.

The termination comes on the heels of a two-page letter the FBI submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee correcting Comey's testimony. Only "a small number" of the thousands of emails found had been forwarded. Most of the others were backed up from electronic devices, CBS reported.

Comey told the Senate Judiciary Committee last week that it makes him "mildly nauseous" that he might have impacted the 2016 election.

A memo from Rosenstein stated that Comey was "wrong to usurp the attorney general's authority on July 5, 2016, and announce this conclusion that the case should be closed without prosecution."

"It is not the function of the director to make such an announcement," the memo said. "At most, the director should have said the FBI had completed its investigation and presented its findings to federal prosecutors."

Comey, 56, was nominated by President Obama for the post in 2013. The FBI director serves a 10-year term.

Democrats denounced Trump's move, which some compared to the "Saturday Night Massacre" of 1973, when President Richard Nixon fired an independent special prosecutor investigating the Watergate scandal.

Reuters contributed to this report.

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These NYC schools have the highest crime rates in their school zones, a new study from HomeSafe says. ISTOCK

These are the most dangerous schools in New York City

Common crimes range from assault, robbery and theft to drugs, alcohol and possession of firearms or weapons.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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While serious crime is down across New York's five boroughs according to the NYPD's CompStat database, much of that crime takes place in school zones, a new study found.

The study from home-security website SafeHome.org looked at crime data within a 300- to 2,000-foot radius of public and private education institutions in New York City, Los Angeles, Boston, Seattle and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. SafeHome compiled its information from U.S. City Open Data Census.

Leading the New York City schools with the most nearby crime in 2016 was Parsons New School for Design, located in Greenwich Village, which had about 2,000 crimes on record in 2016, SafeHome said.

The school, which counts designers Donna Karan and Marc Jacobs and director Joel Schumacher among its alumni, topped three of the study's four lists sorted by type of crime: assault, robbery or theft, and drugs or alcohol. Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in Manhattan's NoMad neighborhood topped the firearm or weapon crimes list.

Here is the breakdown of the top five in those four areas of crime:

Assault/Total Crimes

1. Parsons — 192
2. PS 179 The School for International Cultures — 184
3. St. Charles Borromeo School — 163
4. East Fordham Academy for the Arts — 159
5. Northside Center Day School — 158

Robbery or Theft/Total Crimes

1. Parsons — 82
2. PS 83 — 56
3. PS 179 The School for International Cultures — 53
4. East Fordham Academy for the Arts — 48
5. PS 192 Jacob H. Schiff — 47

Drugs or Alcohol/Total Crimes

1. Parsons — 152
2. St. Charles Borromeo School — 122
3. Northside Center Day School — 121
4. PS 192 Jacob H. Schiff — 120
5. (tie) PS 79 Horan School & St. Angela Merici School — 111

Firearm or Weapon/Total Crimes

1. Phillips School of Nursing at Mount Sinai Beth Israel — 96
2. Parsons — 89
3. PS 161 Pedro Albizu Campos — 46
4. PS 83 — 41
5. PS 5 Ellen Lurie School — 38

A general view of the exterior of The David M. Schwartz Fashion Education Center for Parsons School of Design. GETTY IMAGES

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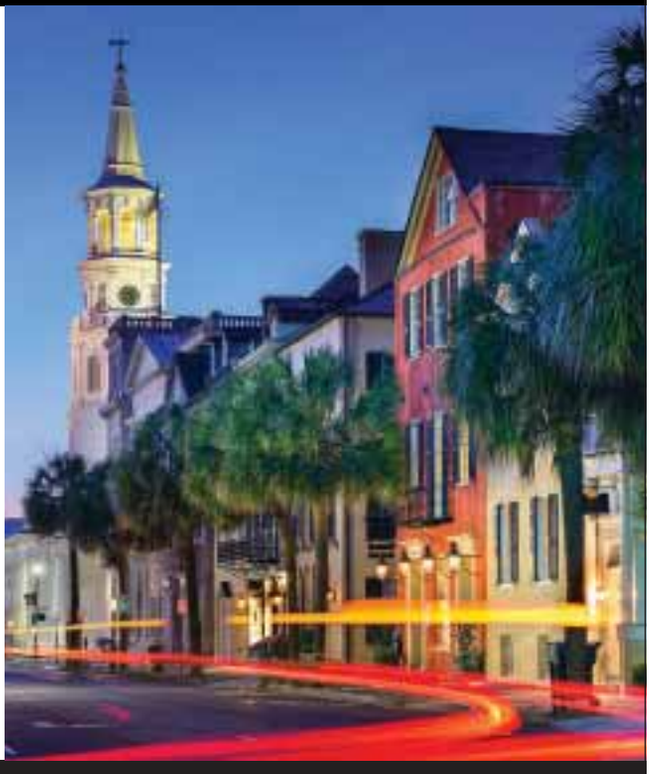

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Is Donald Trump lying about being good at golf?

Several claims of Donald Trump cheating at golf suggest he might be exaggerating a bit.

EVAN MACY
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Is Donald Trump cheating regularly at golf? GETTY IMAGES

In 1994, former North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il claimed that he shot a (by far) record of 38-under par, a score of 34 on a par 72 — witnessed by 17 bodyguards. In that incredible supposed performance, he was said to have made five holes-in-one in the round, also a record.

Golf has long been a hobby for world leaders. In the U.S. alone, 19 presidents have taken up golf, the best among them John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower and George W. Bush.

The current president of the United States is no less in love with the game, as Donald Trump has, according to some sources, played nearly 20 rounds of golf during his first 100 days (Obama played just once in that timeframe).

Just how good is Trump on the links? The reports are mixed. According to a spotty, not regularly updated entry in the USGA's handicap tracker, Trump boasts a 2.8 index, by far the best of any president. He also claims to have 19 club championships under his belt — one of which, according to the Washington Post, was won before his club even opened in 1999.

Another uncorroborated claim is his amateur course record at Mar-a-Lago, a 66.

At 70 years old, he's been playing for a long time. Rory McIlroy, who joined the president for a golf round in February, told reporters that he is "pretty good" for his age. A 2.8 index is pretty good for anyone.

Deciphering the information available, Trump has posted nine rounds above 80 over his last 20 posted scores — a little much for a low single-digit handicapper.

Golf Digest writer Jamie Diaz played a round with Trump three years ago and was a bit suspect of his swing. Diaz writes that Trump drove the ball around 230 yards due to a steep backswing that was better suited for iron play. His iron-striking was, to Diaz's eye, pretty solid and his short game "servicable."

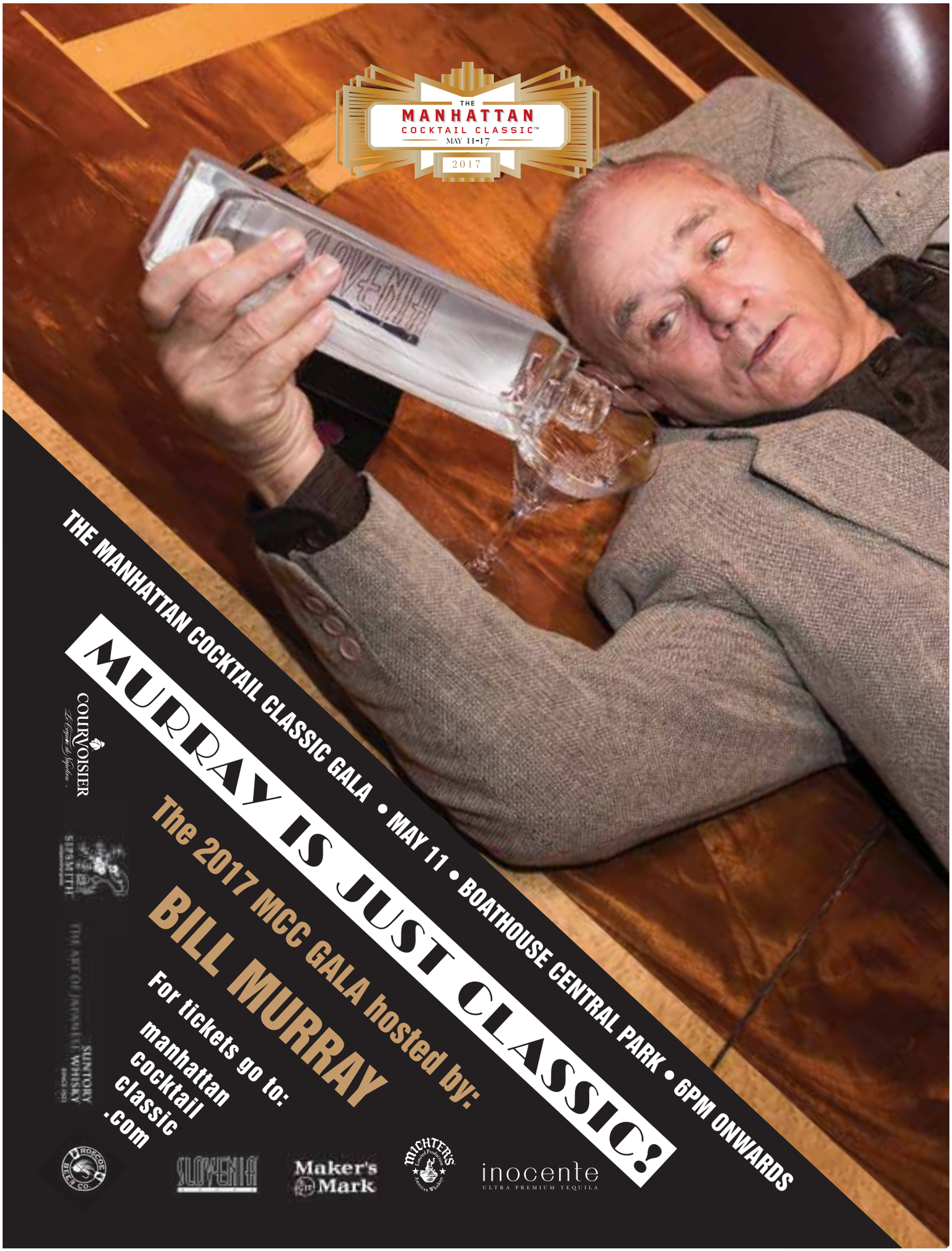
Trump himself told Diaz: "I think of golf as a very natural game. I never really wanted to know a lot about my technique. I really trust instinct a lot, in golf and a lot of things."

There are no shortage of cheating Trump stories, and it's hard to imagine anyone playing golf with the president — a former reality TV star and real estate mogul — and imagining he took a few "gimmies" or "mulligans."

Rock star Alice Cooper all but came out and said Trump was the biggest cheater he's ever played golf with, and Sports Illustrated writer Rick Reilly saw quite a few liberties taken by the president.

"He took the world's first gimme chip-in," Reilly said. Reilly wrote that on holes 1, 13 and 17, Trump took mulligans. Not surprisingly, Trump refuted the claim.

"I always thought he was a terrible writer," he said. "I absolutely killed him, and he wrote very inaccurately."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Why Knee Arthritis Sufferers Of Almost All Ages Are Opting For Newest Medical Procedures Before Surgery . . .

Fraction of the cost, minimal risk and little to no downtime amongst top reasons

By Matt Edgar

America's Health Writer

New York City - Everyone has said it at one time or another. If I had only known about "this" sooner - things would be very different today.

That's what many knee arthritis pain sufferers are saying about this technology and treatment.

"We all know that countless lives are being saved every year because of early detection and better treatment" noted the clinic director at the ***NY Pain MD*** in New York City. "*The same holds true for treating arthritis pain. I believe we are having so much success at* ***NY Pain MD*** *because of two factors: One is we are using advanced medical technology and treatments a lot of clinics do not use. And second, the word has spread to our community and so many knee arthritis sufferers are coming in sooner. And the earlier we can treat knee arthritis - the better the results. The key to trying to avoid knee replacement surgery is doing the correct treatment as soon as possibly"*

What is the "correct treatment?"

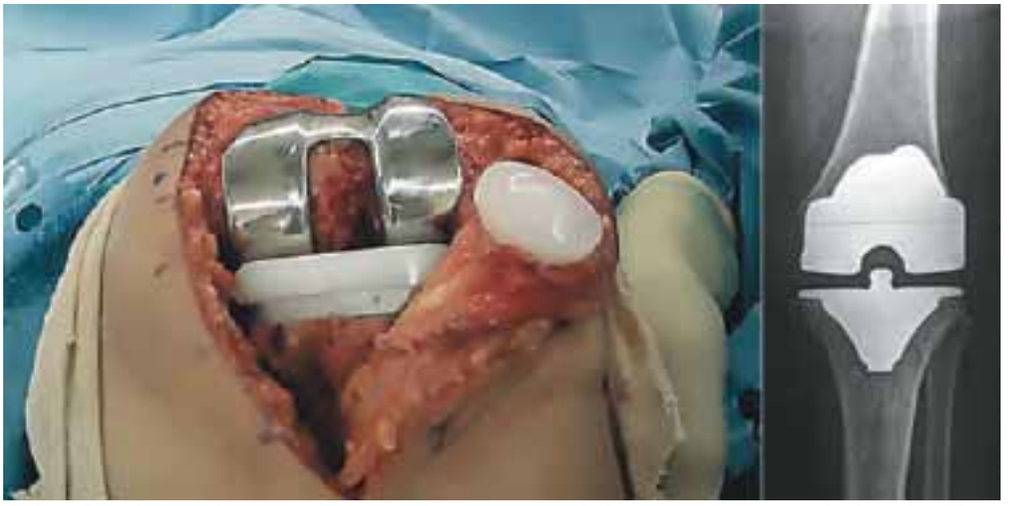
"That depends," said the director. *"There is no one answer when it comes to medical conditions. Knee arthritis is no different. That's why, if you have knee pain, you should have it evaluated by a doctor who deals with and treats knee pain every day,"* added the director.

For many knee arthritis pain sufferers the right treatment is Viscosupplementation whereby a preparation of Hyaluronic acid a gel-like FDA approved medicine is applied directly into the knee joint using *Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology.*

Hyaluronic acid is the natural lubricant and shock absorber of your joints and is found to be decreased in arthritis sufferers. This is similar to running your without oil. Obviously, the sooner you put oil back in the car - the less damage will be done. That's why some doctors feel early viscosupplecosupplementation gets the best results and is so important for avoiding surgery.

The director believes one of the most important factors for the success of viscosupplementation is making sure you are getting it into the joint space precisely. That's why the doctors at ***NY Pain MD*** use advanced imaging technology to apply *Precision Arthritis Targetin*g during every treatment.

A device called the "C-Arm" allows the doctor to see into the joint and actually watch the medicine be applied exactly where it is supposed to. Research shows that performing procedures without Precision Arthritis Targeting (P.A.T.T.)can result in missing the joint space as much as 30% of the time. If you had viscosupplementation treatments without Presision Arthritis Targeting Technology and did not get good results - this may be why.



"If you have knee arthritis pain, viscosupplementation might be the answer you are looking for. The keys are not wait, get a good evaluation from an expert and make sure precision arthritis targeting is used to make sure you have the best chance for success."

Can This Be Avoided? Total knee replacement is serious surgery requiring months of rehabilitation. Some doctors think modern treatments done early enough can keep baby boomers from going under the knife.

Normal Pain-Free Knee Joint

Everyone Wants Proof:

In the artist simulated drawings, picture #1 is a normal, pain-free knee. There is no arthritis and the knee can move and bend freely without pain.

Knee With Painful Arthritis

Pain -

Illustration shown is a knee joint with painful xosteo-arthritis. Arthritis causes the joint space to decrease, grinding, stiffness, decreased motion, bone spurs,swelling and a lot of pain.

Research Shows Doctors Miss The Joint Space Up To 30% Of The Time Without Advanced Imaging

Failed Treatment -

The injection (Lubrication medicine) misses the joint space. Research shows this occurs up to 30% of the time without the use of the digital imaging to guide the injection. This is why lubrication medicine may not have worked for you

Lubrication Medicine Injected Directly Into Knee Join Like "Joint Oil" using Precision Targeting Technology

Succesful Treatment -

Sucessful Treatment - Lubrication Medicine (blue) being precisely injected directly into the knee joint using digital imaging. Advance imaging allows treatments to be as precise as possible. Lubrication medicine can lubricate the joint and decrease pain.

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That's because, for the past year and a half, hundreds of knee pain sufferers have flocked to ***NY Pain MD*** New York City.

That's when their specially trained-doctors added cutting-edge arthritis treatments to their already successful comphrensive knee pain relief program.

Viscosupplementation is unique because - even-though it is manufactured by a pharmaceutical company, it is NOT considered a drug because it is a natural substance with an incredible story.

Why So Many Want It

You see, when you suffer with arthritis - the lubricating fluid (synovial fluid) in your knee joint dries up.

This means instead of gliding smoothly - your bones start to rub and grind against each other.

This causes a little pain in the beginning - but over time the pain steadily gets worse until it is excruciating.

Like "Joint Oil"

Viscosupplementation works so well because it is like 'joint oil." It is a natural substance that contains one of the natural building blocks of the synovial fluid that lubricates your knee.

Scientists and researchers discovered this natural building block to synovial fluid in the rooster's comb - that big red thing on top of the roosters head. It is extracted from the roosters comb, purified and concentrated. They have also developed medical lubricants that are also natural but made a bit like yogurt and "cultured" into highly effective arthritis pain-fighting medical lubricants.

When introduced directly into your knee joint, it is like squirting oil on a rusty door hinge.

Viscosupplementation allows your joints to glide more smoothly eliminating a lot of the rubbing, grinding and pain.

Can Supplements Do The Same Thing?

No. Glucosamine and chondroitin and other supplements are much different. You can only get this from a doctor and it often helps knee pain sufferers who got limited or no success from glucosamine and chondroitin. Beware of unsubstantiated claims made by supplements to do what this advanced medical procedure does.

Why You Should Try This Even If You've Already Had Similar Treatments Without Results...

"We have been able to help so many knee pain sufferers even many who have already tried other treatments like Synvisc, Supartz, Orthovisc and even Hyalgan. This is because our treating doctors always use ***"Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology".*** *This allows us to place he Viscosupplementation exactly where is needs to be. Studies show doctors doing joint injections without echnology can miss the joint up to 30% of the time."* noted the Director of Center

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Advanced Medical Technology Can Make All The Difference: This advanced Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology using fluorososcopic imaging allows doctors to see directly into the knee joint so treatments are precise and the FDA approved lubricating medicine actually goes EXACLTY where it is supposed to. Studies show that procedures done without this technology can miss the joint up to 30% of the time. This is one reason Viscosupplementation may not have worked for you in the past. ***NY Pain MD*** uses this P.A.T. Imaging Technology. with each and every treatment.

And that's not all :

"Every case is individual. Some patients get quite a bit of relief right away - others take a little more time. But most have been extremely happy. We've noted results lasting no less than 6 months for many but up to 2 years for some patients.. Patients who were suffering for years with bad knee pain are getting their lives back... going for walks again and exercising. It's amazing to see. They tell all their friends - that's why we are swarmed. After getting treatment and feeling better, many patients have decided to cancel their total knee replacement surgeries." added the director.

How To Find Out If It Can HelpYou?

If you have knee pain, the ***NY Pain MD*** doctors would like to invite you for a no-obligation screening to see if you are a candidate for their treatments using *Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology.*

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And here's something really important - Viscosupplementation treatments are covered by most insurance, union plans and even medicare. To schedule your no obligation screening or if you have any questions:

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A view of the slick on the East River caused by a mineral oil spill. KROESSERSTRAT

Cleanup underway for East River mineral oil spill

A cleanup is ongoing in the East River due to a weekend spill of industrial fluids from an electrical substation, causing delays for the new NYC Ferry service.

Con Ed spokesman Allan Drury said a spill from a 37,000-gallon substation tank in Dumbo caused the incident.

"On Sunday, May 7, a transformer at a substation ruptured," Drury said. "A lot of it got captured in the substation property itself. … Some of it went into the river."

Drury said the substance, a "dielectric fluid" that is like a coolant, is not as hazardous to the environment as a substance like crude oil would be.

Gothamist reported that the Coast Guard and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation have set up a "safety zone" south of points across the river from East 25th Street in Manhattan to DuPont Street in Greenpoint, and down to Buttermilk Channel.

The ferry delays are due to the oil spill cleanup requiring a slowdown in all marine traffic on the river to prevent waves or a wake from forming.

Con Ed declined to speculate on how long the cleanup will take.

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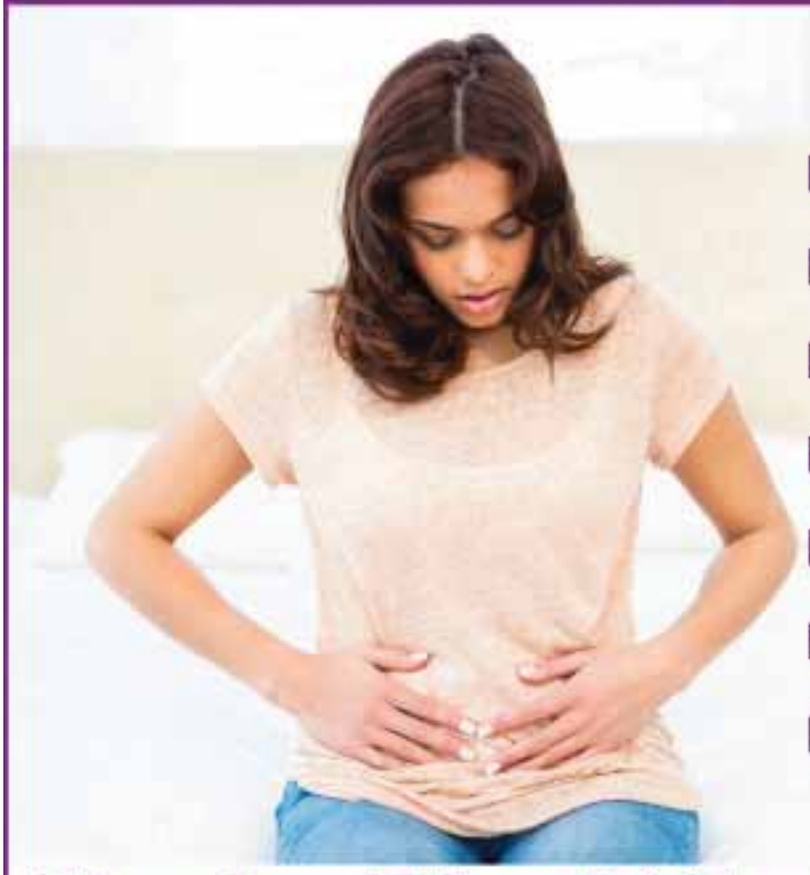

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Judge vacates Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction

Hernandez is no longer convicted of the murder of Odin Lloyd.

ERIN TIERNAN
@ErinTiernan
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GETTY IMAGES

A judge has vacated the 2013 murder conviction of late NFL star Aaron Hernandez.

Hernandez hanged himself in his Massachusetts jail cell on April 19. The following week, his lawyers then filed a motion to vacate the former Patriots tight end's murder conviction.

In Massachusetts, murder convictions are automatically appealed before the state's highest court, but since Hernandez died before that appeal could go through, a legal loophole called the Abatement Doctrine offered lawyers a way to get him off postmortem.

"Whenever someone dies during an appeal of their criminal case, the conviction is eventually vacated. The reason for that is the way the law looks at it, you had an appeal going for you and for all they know, the appeal could have found you innocent," Peter Elikann, a Boston-based criminal defense lawyer, said in April.

The judge agreed, dropping all charges.

"In the interest of justice, the court has no choice but to vacate the conviction," Judge E. Susan Garsh of Bristol County Superior Court said in her ruling as Hernandez's fiancée Shayanna Jenkins Hernandez wiped tears from her eyes.

Bristol County DA Thomas Quinn III wrote in a court filing from last week that "abatement" is not always required if a defendant dies while an appeal is pending.

Quinn said this is especially pertinent when "a defendant's death is a result of his own conscious, deliberate and voluntary act," as with suicide, the AP reported.

Hernandez's suicide sent rumors swirling that he took his own life to ensure money for his family.

The ex-Patriots player was playing for the team on a $40 million contract, which was terminated after his 2013 arrest for Odin Lloyd's murder. It is unclear whether the Patriots will be on the hook for further payout to Hernandez's estate now that his murder conviction has been vacated, but if they are, lawyers have speculated the money would be untouchable by civil wrongful death suits by Lloyd's family and the families of two other alleged victims, Daniel de Abreau and Safiro Furtado. Hernandez was cleared of their murders in April just days before committing suicide.

"Pensions [are] not reachable assets, so they are not able to collect against that," David White, former president of the Massachusetts Bar Association, said in April.

Hernandez was otherwise broke. Court records filed earlier this month indicated his only asset was his New Bedford home, worth an estimated $1.3 million.

Whenever someone dies during an appeal of their criminal case, the conviction is eventually vacated. The reason for that is the way the law looks at it, you had an appeal going for you and for all they know, the appeal could have found you innocent."
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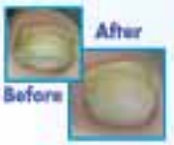

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Texas border town sues over state law to punish 'sanctuary cities'

A small Texas town on the Mexico border filed suit in federal court on Tuesday seeking to throw out on U.S. constitutional grounds a new Texas law that aims to punish so-called "sanctuary cities."

El Cenizo, near Laredo, said it has offered refuge since before Texas, the largest Republican-controlled state, was part of the United States. It said the new law forces it and other localities to forgo their duties to serve and protect at home to become de facto immigration agents.

"The use by the state of city and county resources for federal immigration enforcement breeds distrust of local government and officials, who have no power to change federal laws, and can also wrench apart family and community structures," said the lawsuit.

Governor Greg Abbott GETTY IMAGES

The Texas law signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott on Sunday takes effect on Sept. 1. It comes as Republican U.S. President Donald Trump has made combating illegal immigration a priority.

Texas, with the longest border with Mexico of any U.S. state, has been at the forefront of the immigration debate.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Antonio by El Cenizo's mayor and others, named Abbott and Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton as defendants.

On Monday, Paxton filed a lawsuit on Texas' behalf in a U.S. district court seeking to have the law, known as Senate Bill 4, declared constitutional, calling it "a vital step in securing our borders."

The Texas law, the first such measure passed since Trump took office, calls for jail time for police chiefs and sheriffs who fail to cooperate in immigration enforcement.

The law also allows police to ask people about their immigration status during a lawful detention, even for minor infractions. REUTERS

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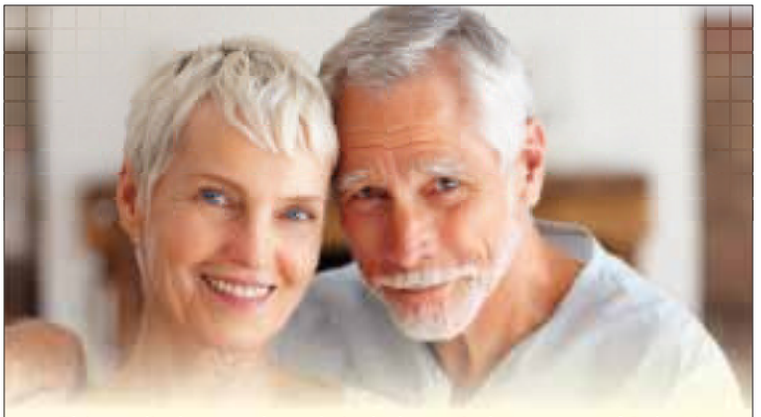

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THE FBI BYE-BYE

TOM FOREMAN
Opinion

I knew FBI Director James Comey was doomed the day he announced his findings in the Hillary Clinton email investigation. After scrutinizing thousands of her messages, questioning key players, and having his crack agents analyze the whole shebang, Comey took the extremely unusual step of announcing his findings publicly. And it was something to behold.

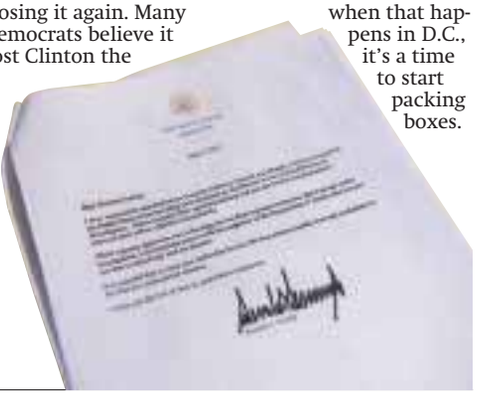
Comey hammered her for sloppy handling of classified information, for her private server, for her judgment — suggesting unmistakably that she had done something terribly wrong. In the process, he threw gasoline on the raging perception among many voters that she could not be trusted. With a hot presidential contest afoot, Democrats were furious.

But Republicans were angry too. Many of them were chortling over the prospect of Clinton being frog marched off to the Iron Bar Hilton to star in a real-life version of "Orange Is the New Black." But the punch line to Comey's diatribe was not what they expected: He refused to charge her with any crime.

More followed — including Comey's 11th-hour announcement that new emails had caused him to reopen the investigation, and his even later announcement that he was closing it again. Many Democrats believe it cost Clinton the election, and they could not forgive him. The White House suggests his handling of that whole matter is why he was fired. However, it is not lost on anyone that Comey's FBI is also conducting a vigorous investigation into Russian connections swirling around Team Trump — and plenty are insisting that's the real reason for his dismissal.

The late gonzo writer Hunter S. Thompson famously described the music business as "… a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free, and good men die like dogs."

I don't know if James Comey is a good man. But I do know there was a time not long ago when big-name Democrats and Republicans alike praised him as the rarest of D.C. habitués: a guy who would speak truth to power and investigate without favor regardless of the backlash. But then he started piling up too many enemies and not enough friends on both sides of the aisle. And when that happens in D.C., it's a time to start packing boxes.



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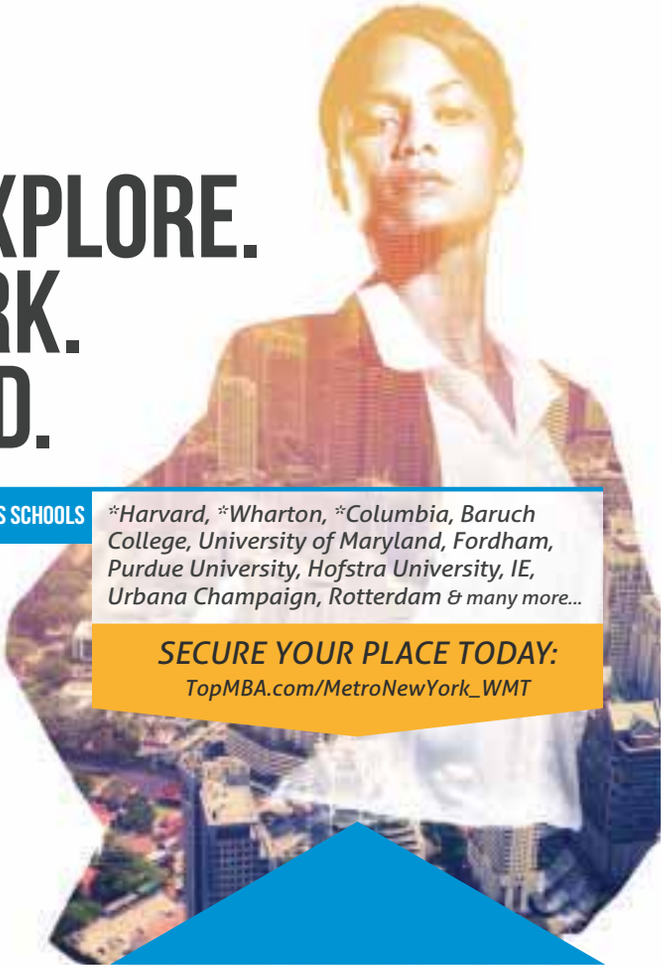

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Abby Lee Miller is going to jail, y'all

Oh, snap: Abby Lee Miller is going to the clinker.

The "Dance Moms" terror's bankruptcy fraud case is over after a year and a half. Miller has been sentenced to a year in federal prison followed by two years' supervised release.

According to People, Miller was charged with attempting to hide $775,000 of income from her Lifetime series and its spinoff "Abby's Ultimate Dance Competition" during Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. She allegedly hid the money in secret bank accounts from 2012 to 2013. Shady!

She was also accused of splitting $120,000 in Australian currency into separate plastic bags, and having different friends carry the amounts in their luggage. That's against the law: People are supposed to report if they are bringing more than $10,000 of a foreign currency into the United States. Damn, the government is always up in someone's business.

Here's hoping her experience in prison will be just like the first season of "Orange Is the New Black," but perhaps less cinematic.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

RACHAEL VAUGHAN CLEMMONS
rachael.clemmons@metro.us

Katy Perry says words about her new album

Katy Perry and Taylor Swift are in a near-constant state of beefing. All because Perry apparently stole a dancer from Swift.

It all started in 2014. Swift told Rolling Stone that "Bad Blood" was about another female artist. "She basically tried to sabotage an entire arena tour," Swift said. "She tried to hire a bunch of people out from under me." According to Entertainment Weekly, some internet sleuthing led the majority of us to believe that her vaguely veiled comments were about Perry, since she and Swift have had the same dancers on their tours.

Now, Perry is set to release an album and she's talking about it to everyone who will listen. But will she have a response to Swift's "Bad Blood"?

"There is no one thing that's calling out any one person," she says. "One thing to note is: You can't mistake kindness for weakness, and don't come for me."

Oh, lovely. Perry spouted a bunch of words without actually saying anything. That's chill!

Don't worry, Zooey Deschanel is still twee even as a mom

Zooey Deschanel — the most famous manic pixie dream girl there ever was — welcomed a son with husband Jacob Pechenik last week. According to People, his name is Charlie Wolf. The woman can't deny herself a subtle dosing of twee, I tell you.

Deschanel and her husband also share a daughter, Elsie Otter. Yeah. Otters and wolves. Not a great combination as far as my experience goes, but what do I know? I'm not the star of "New Girl," a show that has majorly waned in popularity because, let's be real, who wants to watch a bunch of people in their late 30s live in a perpetual state of young adulthood in a loft they absolutely can't afford? I mean, I used to like "New Girl" a lot. But like most fantasies about marginally attractive people living together in what I assume used to be a Nabisco factory, it takes quite a bit of suspension of disbelief. But I digress.

Congratulations to the happy couple!

What is going on with Conrad Hilton?

If you'll allow me to opine a bit more than usual, I'll tell you this: I think it's a real shame that it's 2017 and Conrad Hilton's shenanigans are trending. The Hiltons are no longer a thing inasmuch as they are just some rich people who — thanks to Paris — enjoyed a bit of short-lived fame in the heyday of low-rise jeans, ratty extensions and questionable footwear.

Anyway, Conrad Hilton has been having a pretty bad couple of days. According to Page Six, the 23-year-old was arrested Saturday for allegedly stealing his ex-girlfriend's father's car, driving it to her house, attempting to break in, then launching into a homophobic and racist tirade against arresting officers. Charming!

He has been charged with grand theft auto and is being held on $60,000 bail.

Hilton's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, has requested that Hilton be released from jail to go to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. Shapiro characterized Hilton's behavior as "bizarre and unusual," according to TMZ.

Hopefully this dude gets help, and soon.

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Alise Tote1, $358

Louise et Cie

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Cider among the tombs

A Brooklyn couple is making the drink of 1800s America using apples from historic Green-Wood Cemetery.

EVA KIS
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Joy Doumis and Jeremy Hammond harvest apples in Green-Wood. At right, they prep the apples to become cider in their backyard. PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Green-Wood Cemetery is a place to contemplate mortality — or, for one Brooklyn couple, find a way to create something new.

Jeremy Hammond and Joy Doumis have been hobbyist cidermakers since 2004, and their latest project is three hard ciders made with apples grown in the nearly two-centuries-old graveyard. Though they're not for sale, you can taste one of them at a special event, Pouring Green-Wood, on May 21.

"We live across the street from the cemetery, and we started spending more time in there just walking around," says Hammond, who collected the fruit with Doumis in late 2015 and spent the past year and a half fermenting and aging it for release this month.

"One day I found a big pile of regular-size apples not near any apple tree and I followed a path up a hill and found the most enormous tree near the grave of [yes, that] Samuel Morse, and it was just spewing apples."

That tree, a Baldwin, yielded the majority of the fruit, along with Granny Smith, various crabapples and a yet-to-be-identified variety for the drink they've dubbed Malus Immortalis, or Immortal Apple, a dry and fizzy cider with notes of nectarines, honeycomb and flowers. (It should be noted that Hammond and Doumis harvest their apples with the cooperation of the cemetery.)

At Pouring Green-Wood, the couple will discuss their cider-making process — the same centuries-old techniques practiced by many of Green-Wood's permanent residents — from collection to fermentation.

Hammond trained as a winemaker in the Loire Valley, one of France's most prestigious wine regions, and their cider uses those same techniques. That means no cooking, only open-air fermentation in their (actual) backyard, using apples they collected in the late fall of 2015. (There is no 2016 batch because of a drought.) The fruit is then put through handmade presses and aged in their basement across the street from Green-Wood.

Granny Smith and Morse apples used in Malus Immortalis

"We've actually had wine sommeliers confuse our ciders with natural wine," says Doumis. "They're part of a deeper, funkier, rustic complexity that are very close to what people used to make back in the day."

"Just let it do its thing until all the sugar is gone, and then put it in a bottle," adds Hammond. "Then you can say, 'This is what the cemetery gave you.'"

That said: Given that most apple trees are scattered among the graves, could any of Green-Wood's 560,000 residents (and counting) have become fodder for this brew?

"I don't really think much about it," says Hammond. Green-Wood Director of Horticulture Joe Charap did not address this in an email to Metro. But Doumis did recount a fascinating story about Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island: Nearly 200 years after he was buried, residents wanted to create a memorial for him. So they dug up his grave and found only an apple root in the shape of Williams. "Apple trees apparently do like bones," says Doumis. "They find a lot of good, healthy things and sustenance in that."

"It's the cycle of life, really," Hammond muses. "The tree goes dormant and then it wakes back up, it flowers, it creates an apple, the apple in a way dies and changes into a new thing. It's just about the phase changes."

If you go

Pouring Green-Wood
May 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
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The secrets of Prospect Park are yours to discover

Learn the "juicy details" about Brooklyn's best park on Museum Hack's team scavenger hunt.

EVA KIS
@thisiskis
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Central Park is fine, but it's no Prospect Park — at least to Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the men who designed them.

It's the kind of controversial tidbit that wouldn't end up in most history books, but that Museum Hack specializes in on its guided tours, which are more likely to feature raps about King Tut and navigating the Met via Pokemon Go.

For their next event, Hack the Park on May 11 — totally free, by the way — they're doing things a little differently. Instead of a guide, you'll be grouped into teams of five for a manic scavenger race across Prospect Park to find clues and complete challenges.

Along the way, you'll learn the juicy details of its past as a cemetery, how Prospect Park got its name, some cool geology (you have glaciers to thank for those rolling hills) and "other stuff that's really cool and interesting, but not necessarily something you're thinking about if you were there with your friends," says Mark Kennedy-McClellan, Museum Hack's creative producer.

"The idea of hacking it is very much, 'This information makes you enjoy the park in a different way, but also we're gonna get you to do stuff and have fun with your friends in a way you wouldn't expect to.'"

Teams of up to five will dash around the park "Amazing Race" style, finding landmarks, interacting with actors in costume and taking photos, whether it's trying to do a three-legged race or identifying some of the park's unique plants and trees. At the end awaits glory, and a Fuji Instax printer for each member of the team.

Each team will be using Fuji's wireless hand-held printers to complete the challenges for maximum silliness, with zero drama over who's going to share the photos later since you'll have them instantly.

"But in terms of getting the instructions and doing what you need to do, that's with people and with paper," says Kennedy-McClellan. "We're trying to create memories."

And while the usual Museum Hack experience is focused on adults — gossip, drama, sex and drugs are common topics, even (especially!) in fine art museums — this one's suitable for all ages.

If you can't make it to this Thursday's event, they're planning another Hack the Park for June 3.

If you go

Hack the Park
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Diane Lane doesn't want to just play moms

Diane Lane plays a married woman driving through France with a charming Frenchman (Arnaud Viard) in "Paris Can Wait," in theaters soon. SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The Oscar nominee talks "Paris Can Wait" and eating way too much great food.

MATT PRIGGE
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Making a movie in which you eat tons of food isn't as fun as it sounds. Diane Lane spends most of the romantic comedy "Paris Can Wait" traveling through France, digging into scrumptious-looking French dishes. It was all delicious. But acting and eating at the same time isn't always easy.

"I had some low notes in the reality of eating food," Lane tells us. "My eyes started to strobe from eating too much chocolate — like I was

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going to have a seizure or something. They say chocolate is a drug, and I proved it. I thought they were joking."

She wouldn't describe herself as a foodie, though. "I make sure I have foodie friends, and I allow them to show off their foodie-ness to me. And I reap the benefits," she says.

In the film, the Oscar-nominated actress, 52, plays Anne, the wife of a big-shot film producer played by Alec Baldwin. They're due to travel from the Cannes Film Festival to Paris when he's suddenly called away on business. So he deposits her in the car of one of his assistants, Jacques (Arnaud Viard), a middle-aged Frenchman, who keeps making pit stops to grab food.

We soon start wondering if this neglected woman and this sometimes quite forward European will fall in love. But "Paris Can Wait" isn't a simple "Will they or won't they?" movie. And Lane likes that the two characters spend most of the movie in a gray zone.

"We're so used to that 'thumb up or down' thing — live or die, does she or doesn't she, black or white," Lane says. "There's very little patience for mystery. That's where I think reality abides — in the amorphous question mark about how we feel."

GETTY

Jacques even confronts her about how she feels, in a way that few Americans would.

"He's frank. That's why they say, 'Pardon my French.' Because if you actually do a literal translation of a lot of French, it's actually pretty frank," she says, with a laugh.

For roles like "Paris Can Wait" — a romantic film about a middle-aged woman — Lane has to go outside Hollywood. In Hollywood she mostly plays mothers. Right now, she's Martha Kent, aka Superman's mom in the DC Cinematic Universe. (She'll be reprising the role in this fall's "Justice League.") But even that, she thinks, can be empowering.

"Being Superman's mom is quite heroic, as far as the impact she has in creating a good man," Lane explains. After all, moms are big deals. "We all make our therapists rich talking about our mothers, right? If it's not one thing, it's your mother — that's the joke."

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[3] Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change. Asset limits also apply.

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When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **July 10, 2017**
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Español Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect. Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: Draper Hall Apartments; 98 Cuttermill Road; suite 342 south; Great Neck, New York, 11021. En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes del **10 de julio 2017.**

繁體中文 請到 nyc.gov/housingconnect 的線上申請，瀏覽英語版本/ 申請表格的英語版和印刷版申請表。 Draper Hall Apartments; 98 Cuttermill Road suite 342 south, Great Neck, New York, 11021. 信封背面請用英語寫下 "CHINESE"。 必須在收到截止日期之前將線上申請或郵寄申請表寄出。**2017 年 7 月 10 日。**

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Summer grilling: Try these Korean BBQ Sliders

Chef Dale Talde is here for your grilling needs. PROVIDED

Celebrity chef Dale Talde teamed up with McCormick to create this game-changing grilling recipe.

KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
kate.mooney@metro.us

Spring has officially sprung, and that means we're approaching grilling season. Just in time, McCormick released its 2017 Flavor Forecast: Grilling Edition, revealing this season's trends for 'Merica's favorite backyard pastime.

"This summer is all about bringing new inspiration to grilling favorites like burgers, barbecue sauce, potatoes and wings," said McCormick executive chef Kevan Vetter. "Add a twist to your burgers by mixing Korean flavors like sesame, garlic, soy and honey into the patty, then top with an easy grilled kimchi and ginger garlic mayo. Or put that cast iron skillet to work on the grill and create the ultimate sausage and egg hash."

McCormick's five must-grill ideas for the season include creating a backyard "Poke Shack" by searing shrimp, fish veggies and fruits and tossing with a citrusy sweet dressing; ditching tired potato salad for Cast Iron Spuds; swapping in a White BBQ Sauce, the tangy, mayo-based Southern condiment, for the standard tomato-ey red; grilling Peppered Sticky Sweet Wings, using summer fruits like blackberries and peaches for the glaze; and instead of a bland beef patty, opting for Next Level Korean BBQ Burgers.

The recipe for those Korean BBQ Burger Sliders comes from celebrity chef Dale Talde. The "Top Chef" competitor is the owner of five restaurants, including Talde Brooklyn — with locations in Miami and Jersey City — which has hooked diners with its casual, flavor-forward Asian-American dishes since first opening in 2012. The 38-year-old chef shares his recipe and dishes advice on how we can become masters of the backyard pit this summer.

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home

Get creative

"Say you are a meat and potatoes, burger and hot dogs person. Get funky with the marinades you're using. Put kimchi slaw on a hot dog. Now it's not just a hot dog," he suggests.

Talde believes anything can go on the grill, and will taste good if you do it right. "Look inside your fridge. You can grill anything. Pickles! A head of lettuce!"

"It's like the classic kitchen test: What happens when you fry it? I don't know, just throw it on," he jokes.

How to grill veggies

When it comes to veggies, Talde says you should go with what's fresh and seasonal.

"The reason you're outdoors grilling is to make [the experience] as natural as possible," he says. He recommends going to your farmer's market and seeing what's available. If you have a garden, there's your inspiration right there. "Whatever I'm growing at the time —chilis, breakfast radishes — that's what I'm using," he says. "Lettuce greens coming up? Stay simple in the summertime. We have four months of it to be really nice out."

Ditch the foil — veggies should go right on the grill, or even directly on the fire. He recommends torching a tomato or red pepper until it's fully charred, and then peeling that layer off. "Something magical happens when something gets really caramelized and charcoal on the outside," he says. "Unearth the first few layers and it's sweet and smoky on the inside."

Smoke is its own flavor

Grilling with gas may easier, but Talde says the difference between that and charcoal is night and day.

"Smoke is its own ingredient. It's something that can't be replicated," he says.

He fills his grill with hard wood charcoal. "There's nothing like cooking over wood that gets people's mouth watering,"he says.

Turn up the heat

"The biggest mistake is too low temperatures," he says. "Either not enough charcoal or fire power, and you don't get those great grill marks you're looking for."

Talde's Korean BBQ Burger Sliders with Kimchi Mayo. PROVIDED

Dale Talde's Korean BBQ Burger Sliders with Kimchi Mayo

Inspired by the "McCormick Flavor Forecast 2017: Grilling Edition" Next-Level Korean BBQ Burger trend. *Recipe courtesy of Chef Dale Talde.*
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 12 minutes

Kimchi Mayonnaise:
1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup kimchi, sliced
2 tablespoons McCormick® Sesame Seed
1 teaspoon sesame oil
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1/2 cup water
1/4 cup sugar
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1 teaspoon McCormick® Ground Ginger
1 teaspoon sesame oil
Korean BBQ Sliders:
1 pound ground beef chuck*
1 pound ground beef short ribs*
1/2 cup cold water
1 tablespoon (from 1 package) Grill Mates® Korean BBQ Marinade
12 slider rolls

For the Kimchi Mayonnaise, mix all ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Cover. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

For the marinade, place all ingredients into blender; cover. Blend until smooth. Reserve 3 tablespoons of the marinade. Place remaining marinade in large bowl.

For the Sliders, mix all ingredients in medium bowl until blended and water is absorbed into the meat. Shape into 12 patties.

Grill sliders over medium heat 2 minutes on one side or until browned, brushing with reserved 3 tablespoons marinade. Flip sliders and grill 2 minutes longer. Remove from grill and dunk into remaining marinade in large bowl. Repeat grilling and dunking until each slider has been cooked 4 to 6 minutes per side and are cooked through (internal temperature of 160ºF).

Serve sliders on rolls topped with Kimchi Mayonnaise. Makes 6 (2-slider) servings.

**Substitution Tip: 2 pounds ground beef chuck can be substituted for 1 pound each ground chuck and short ribs.*

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Cinco de Uh-Oh: Harvey's night uncovered

It appears a hard night of partying kept Matt Harvey from the ballpark on Saturday, prompting his three-game, unpaid suspension.

JOE PANTORNO
@JoePantorno
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Mets manager Terry Collins wanted to keep the reason why Matt Harvey was suspended under wraps.

While admirable, this is New York, and we all knew that the truth was going to come out at some point.

Early Tuesday morning, the reason behind Harvey's headache was revealed. According to Emily Smith and David K. Li of Page Six, the pitcher was out partying at 1 Oak in the Meatpacking District for Cinco de Mayo until 4 a.m. on Saturday.

He didn't take it easy despite having to pitch on Sunday afternoon, either. Sources told Smith and Li that Harvey was partaking in plenty of top-shelf liquor including Don Julio, Armand de Brignac champagne, and Belvedere vodka.

Well, at least we know where the headache that kept him home came from.

Somehow, this all could have been avoided had he just showed up to Citi Field for Saturday night's 7:10 p.m. first pitch against the Miami Marlins.

Even though he wasn't pitching that night — and many pitchers do not come to the park a night before their start— Collins expected him to be there. When he didn't receive any word from Harvey, that's when the angry manager went to Mets brass and the unpaid three-game suspension came about.

Matt Harvey's Cinco de Mayo antics has landed him in hot water once again with the Mets. GETTY IMAGES

Harvey said that he did alert the team, per Jon Heyman of FanRag Sports.

He even claimed that he went and played a round of golf with three of his friends and had lunch from a private chef. After he fell asleep later, that's when the headache came about.

It doesn't look like there is a lot of trust between the Mets and Harvey. The team apparently sent a pair of security officials to the ailing pitcher's apartment in Greenwich Village late on Saturday night.

The Mets insist that it was just to check on his well-being. Harvey said that he was practically interrogated at his front door while in pajamas.

The only way things can possibly be resolved is if Harvey swallows his pride, takes the punishment on the chin, and starts putting baseball and his team first, which he has not been able to do since making his MLB debut in 2012.

He took a step in the right direction on Tuesday by apologizing to the team and echoing those sentiments to the media.

I'm not saying don't go out and have a good time. Everyone needs to do that every once in a while. But take a second, think of the optics before putting yourself in a difficult situation and make your job, which is paying you $5.1 million this year, a top priority.

After all, this is New York. And that pesky media is always watching.

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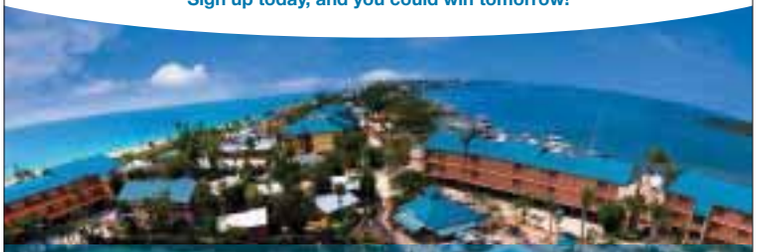

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Batman vs. himself

A timeline of Matt Harvey's tumultuous run with the Mets

July 26, 2012: Harvey makes his MLB debut against the Arizona Diamondbacks, allowing just three hits while striking out 11 in 5.1 innings.

Aug. 26, 2013: His electrifying first full season is cut short when he is diagnosed with a partially torn UCL.

March 2014: The Mets and Harvey clash about where the pitcher will do his rehab work. He wanted to stay in New York while the team wanted him down at their facilities in Florida.

Sept. 25, 2014: Harvey appears at Yankee Stadium to watch Derek Jeter's final home game, much to the dismay of countless Mets fans.

Oct. 6, 2015: He winds up pitching in the postseason, but misses a mandatory workout prior to the NLDS against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Mets cited traffic for his no-show. Harvey said he lost track of time. It turned out he was out drinking the night before.

March 31, 2016: After a spring-training start, Harvey refuses to speak with reporters due to their poking fun at him because of a blood clot in his bladder.

July 18, 2016: Harvey undergoes surgery to repair his thoracic outlet syndrome, ending his season early once again.

March 16, 2017: Spotted in a Miami restaurant with his new girlfriend Adriana Lima, Harvey is spotted smoking an unidentified substance.

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017

July 2013: A busy month for Harvey includes posing naked in the body issue of ESPN the Magazine, starting the 2013 MLB All-Star Game at Citi Field and telling Men's Journal that he wants to date as many women as Derek Jeter.

Jeter in 2000 with ex-girlfriend, Miss Universe 2000 Lara Dutta of India.

Oct. 22, 2013: Harvey undergoes successful Tommy John surgery that will hold him out for the entire 2014 season.

April 22, 2014: Six months after his surgery, Harvey tweets a photo of himself in a hospital bed flipping off the camera.

September 2015: Given a 180-inning limit for the season, Harvey and agent Scott Boras cause an uproar in the midst of the Mets' playoff push. Harvey remained noncommitted to pitching the last month of the regular season and the playoffs while Boras wanted his client to be shut down upon reaching the 180 innings mark.

Jan. 28, 2016: Appearing on Bravo's "Watch What Happens Next," Harvey reveals that he once had a threesome on a baseball field while in college.

May 7, 2017: Harvey is suspended for three games without pay for violating team rules.

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NY CLINICAL TRIALS

Stop acting like the NBA playoffs are better than the Stanley Cup playoffs

It's hard to get hyped for something that is as predictable as the NBA playoffs.

JOE PANTORNO
@joepantorno
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

This is the most exciting time of year if you are a sports fan. Baseball season is underway while we are being treated to the NHL's Stanley Cup and NBA playoffs.

Well, actually, we are being treated to just the Stanley Cup playoffs. I can't say the same about the NBA no matter how much people and other media outlets try to sell it.

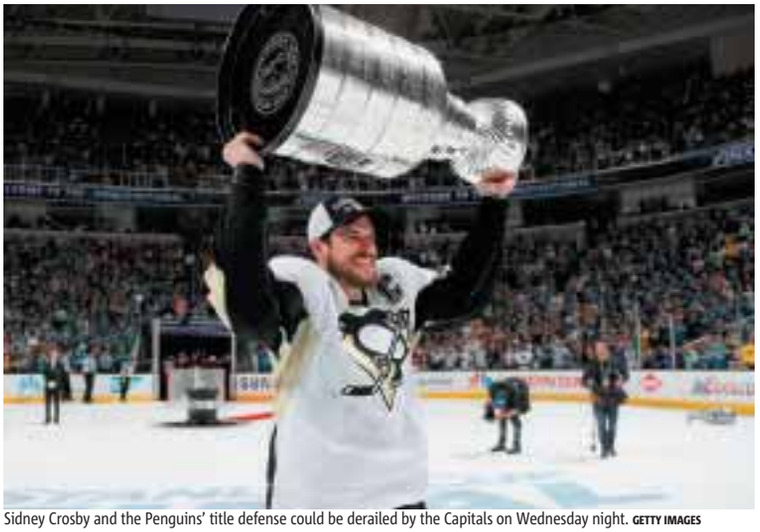
As always, this year's NHL postseason has been as thrilling and entertaining as ever. The lowest seed in the Western Conference, the Nashville Predators, have made their first-ever conference final after sweeping the top-ranked Chicago Blackhawks and disposing of the St. Louis Blues in six games.

We also have two Game 7's tonight to further build the already palpable drama.

The Edmonton Oilers, a team making their first playoff appearance in 11 years, and their 20-year-old captain, Connor McDavid, travel to Anaheim to face the Ducks.

If that wasn't good enough, two of the greatest players of this generation, Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin, will create a thrilling finale when the Washington Capitals host the Pittsburgh Penguins for all the marbles.

That's what makes a postseason great: when two evenly matched teams push each other to the brink.



Sidney Crosby and the Penguins' title defense could be derailed by the Capitals on Wednesday night. GETTY IMAGES

In no way can you say this about the NBA playoffs minus the Celtics-Wizards series.

There's no parity. None whatsoever. Everyone is competing to lose to either the Cleveland Cavaliers or Golden State Warriors.

Yet the league and major media outlets covering it are going to pretend like every first- and second-round game is the sporting gods' gift to fans everywhere.

It's not.

The Cavaliers and Warriors haven't lost a game in the first two rounds as they will likely meet in the NBA Finals for the third consecutive season.

In the last three Stanley Cup Finals, there have been six different teams involved. That's unpredictability. That's drama. That's what fans want.

Are we really going to concern ourselves with the poor teams that are grinding to play Cleveland or Golden State in the conference finals?

What's the point?

Call me when the finals start. Maybe I'll tune in if the referees actually let the players play, grown men stop flopping under minimal contact and stop asking for even more whistles.

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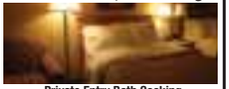

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Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(s):
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, PURSUANT TO LAW, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday May 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at 42 Broadway, 5th floor on a petition for Louzza LLC to establish, maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk cafe at 8101 5th Avenue in the Borough of Brooklyn for a term of two years.

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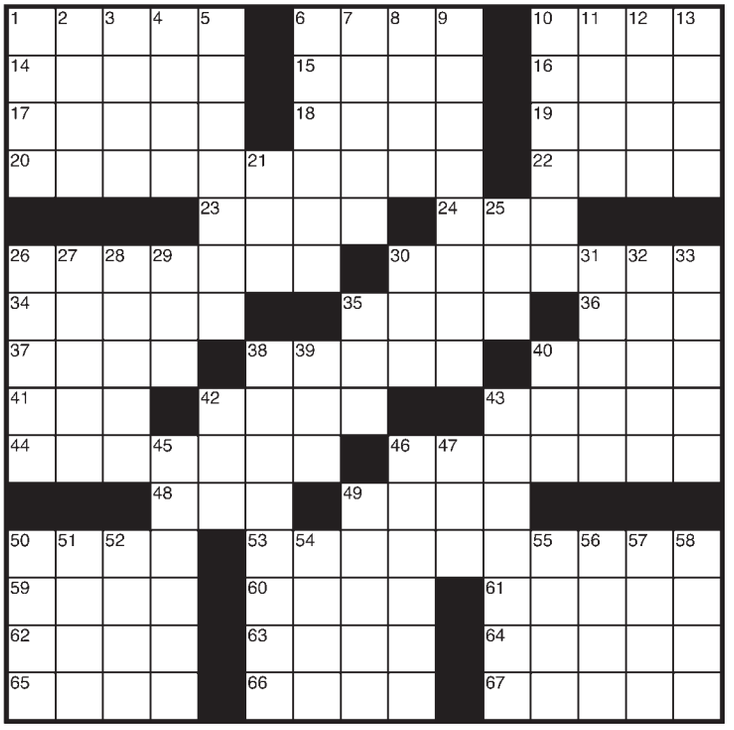
Across

1 Seagoing
6 Court summons
10 India and invisible
14 A-list types
15 Eatery fare
16 Crossbow arrow
17 Fencers' blades
18 Freedom org.
19 -- fixe
20 Way to float
22 Look as if
23 Big galoots
24 Quilting social
26 Uses a compass
30 Wood cutters
34 Reels in
35 Masculine principle
36 Ray gun blast
37 Burrows
38 Fetch
40 Happy rumble
41 Paul Anka's "-- Beso"
42 Brace
43 Mandalay's locale
44 Good-as-new tire
46 Most trim
48 Aardvark prey
49 Swedish import
50 Like some horses
53 For the most part (2 wds.)
59 LP player (hyph.)
60 Staff member
61 Flexible
62 Pet shop sounds
63 Form 1040 experts
64 Willow shoot
65 Chicken wire
66 Superman's alias
67 "Cape Fear" star

Down

1 Must have
2 Brand for Bowser
3 Worm's-eye --
4 Two fives for -- --
5 Training sessions
6 Docks
7 5K and 10K
8 Cuba, to Castro
9 Leafing through
10 Wading birds
11 Twig juncture
12 "Fish Magic" artist
13 Mushroom part
21 Edge a doily
25 Turtle-to-be
26 Of longer standing
27 Jack up
28 Gold brick
29 Mag. workers
30 Cold mo.
31 Blue as the sky
32 Nukes, slangily
33 No-fat Jack
35 Small bark
38 "St. Elmo's Fire" cast (2 wds.)
39 Towel's place
40 Knock-knock joke
42 Corral
43 Ancient Euphrates city
45 Pungent root
46 Most recent
47 Pig out
49 Four-door model
50 Phony
51 Take on
52 Switch positions
54 Ready to harvest
55 Sushi-bar soup
56 Water or tel.
57 Newscaster -- Huntley
58 This spot



metro.us/sudoku

easy

		5	3	7				4
1			4			9		5
9			8					
8					6		9	
2			1		5			3
	5		2					7
					3			1
7		6			4			8
5				1	7	2		

hard

		3		6			9	2
8				3				
		5	4			8	3	
	4				6		1	
6		1				7		9
	5		2				4	
	8	6			3	4		
				8				1
5	7			2		3		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Be creative. Taking the time to do something special for a loved one will be appreciated. A unique relationship will evolve if you discuss your needs.

Taurus Offer to help someone in need and make a point to be mindful of others. How you relate to others will determine how successful you are and the progress you'll make.

Gemini Your emotions will play tricks on you. Be careful not to react too quickly if someone does something suspicious. Gather evidence before you point fingers.

Cancer An unusual development with someone close to you will require attention. Taking the lead and making a physical gesture will help keep the peace.

Leo Don't fight the impossible. You have more going your way than you realize. Speak up and compromise to get what you want. Travel is encouraged.

Virgo You'll convince others to see things your way. Attending a business meeting or taking a course that will add to your skills or knowledge will bring good results.

Libra A money matter will fare far better if you separate your feelings from the process. Investing in your surroundings must be done with intelligence, not your emotions.

Scorpio Handle relationship issues swiftly. Be open to discussion of what needs to be done to make things better. Offer suggestions and put your plans in motion.

Sagittarius Keep personal information a secret by keeping your feelings, financial concerns or health issues to yourself. Personal changes look promising.

Capricorn Your ideas may appear unorthodox to some, but once developed, they will come across as genius. Spend time working out the details in the privacy of your home.

Aquarius Deal with matters concerning institutions diplomatically. Use your ingenuity to come up with a plan that will not result in ramifications affecting others.

Pisces An idea you have can be taken to the next level. Call in favors if it will help you move forward faster. An unexpected encounter will turn into a joint venture. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

A	T	A	R	I		R	O	O	F	S		B	A	D
C	O	N	A	N		O	M	N	I	A		U	N	O
M	A	N	G	O		Y	E	A	R	L	I	N	G	S
E	D	O		R	O	A	N			L	A	D	L	E
		Y	O	D	E	L		F	E	I	N	T	E	D
L	E	A	D	E	R		S	I	R	E	S			
A	S	N	E	R		F	E	A	R	S		L	P	N
S	A	C	S		L	I	L	T	S		B	O	R	E
H	U	E		S	O	L	E	S		C	L	U	E	S
			F	L	O	E	S		A	R	T	I	S	T
T	A	B	L	E	T	S		D	R	E	S	S		
O	L	L	I	E			S	U	M	O		I	I	I
Q	U	I	C	K	S	A	N	D		L	O	A	N	S
U	M	P		E	U	B	I	E		E	R	N	I	E
E	S	S		R	E	S	T	S		S	K	A	T	E

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